

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

66618

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DMCOCHRAN/MW

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DAVIES

NEA/MR. LAINGEN

NEA/PAB - MR. CONSTABLE

S/S-O:R.ELTZ

EUR/SOV - MR. ROY (DRAFT)

INR/RNA - MR. HOWELLS (DRAFT)

----- 116113

R 130254Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 243565

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DAVIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF, UR

SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 10684

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE EFFECTIVE USE TO WHICH YOU MIGHT
PUT OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM PRIME MINISTER REGARDING ALLEGED
SOVIET TANK DELIVERIES TO AFGHANISTAN, WE DO NOT THINK
THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME. IN OUR
VIEW, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY
ADEQUATE ASSESSMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE. IF, HOWEVER,
PAKISTANIS RAISE MATTER WITH YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO RPT
NO OBJECTION TO YOUR SHARING SUCH INFORMATION AS WE MAY
POSSESS. IF SUBJECT COMES UP BEFORE MORE CERTAIN INFORMA-
TION IS AVAILABLE, WE WOULD URGE THAT YOU NOTE OUR PRESENT
ASSESSMENT THAT WHATEVER DELIVERIES MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE,
THE NUMBER OF TANKS INVOLVED WILL PROBABLY PROVE TO BE
SECRET

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SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN 862 AND THAT IT SEEMS MORE THAN
LIKELY THAT THEY WILL PROVE TO BE PART OF A REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN TENTATIVE WHILE AWAITING
HARDER DATA.

2. WE HAVE TWO BASIC REASONS FOR NOT TAKING INITIATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT. ON A NARROWER REGIONAL LEVEL, IT IS OUR CONCERN THAT BY BROACHING MATTER WITH BHUTTO WE WOULD ONLY INCREASE PAKISTANI SUSPICIONS REGARDING AFGHANS AND THUS WORSEN SITUATION. WE THINK THIS COST WOULD OUTWEIGH WHATEVER ADVANTAGE WOULD ACCRUE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT IF WE TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER WITH BHUTTO, WE RUN THE RISK OF STIMULATING GOP EXPECTATIONS REGARDING OUR RESPONSE TO THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. ON A BROADER LEVEL, WE SHARE YOUR VIEW DESCRIBED IN ISLAMABAD 10582 THAT THIS MATTER RAISES A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION AS TO SOVIET INTENTION CONTINUE MAINTAIN POLICY OF RESTRAINT REGARDING INTRAREGIONAL ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA. IN THIS SETTING, OUR MOST PRESSING NEED IS FOR MORE CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING TANK DELIVERIES. WE EXPECT THIS BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE. PORTER

SECRET

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